FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 17, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SELLS \$800 MILLION IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

SACRAMENTO, CA – The State of California sold \$800 million in general obligation bonds today. California State Treasurer Philip Angelides called the sale a success, commenting "California remains a solid credit that is highly desirable in these times of political and economic uncertainty worldwide."

The three major rating agencies maintained their ratings of California general obligation debt, with Fitch at AA, Moody's Investors Service at A1, and Standard & Poor's at A+.

The bonds were sold in a competitive sale. Lehman Brothers was the winning bidder with a true interest cost of 5.223%. Other bidders included UBS PaineWebber Inc. and Merrill Lynch & Co.

The bond proceeds will fund various projects throughout California, such as new construction and modernization of K-12 schools and higher education facilities; the preservation, acquisition, construction and improvement of railways and other transportation facilities; retrofitting of public buildings for earthquake safety; water quality, supply, and flood control improvements; the protection, preservation and repair of state and neighborhood parks and wildlife habitats; and seismic retrofitting of highways and bridges.

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